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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Siam

DATE DISTR. 4 May 1949

SUBJECT Participation of Former United States Navy Ship  
25X1A6a in the Attempted 26 February Coup

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(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. The SS BLUEBIRD, a former United States subchaser, left Hong Kong on 2 February 1949. After sailing for six hours, the BLUEBIRD was met after dark by a large Chinese merchant ship which was unidentified and which came from Canton. Eight or nine Siamese dressed in civilian clothes boarded the BLUEBIRD. Forty cases containing machine guns, grenades, and ammunition were transferred to the BLUEBIRD.
2. The leader of the Siamese group was positively identified as Nai Pridi Banomyong. Aboard ship, the Siamese group immediately dressed in Siamese Navy uniforms.
3. An American named George Nellis, who boarded the ship in Hong Kong, assumed charge of relations between the Siamese group and the ship's company. Nellis, a former bomber pilot, is 25 years old, blonde, and 6 feet 2 inches tall.\*
4. The BLUEBIRD sailed to Siamese waters, anchoring at night and sailing during the day, apparently to compensate for lack of navigational skill on the part of the crew. About 7 February, she arrived at a large island off the Siamese coast, the name of which is unknown. The BLUEBIRD raised a Siamese flag and changed her name. A small Japanese junk came from the island and took Pridi, Nellis and the Siamese group aboard. They returned at intervals during the next several days. On 24 February, the cases of arms were transferred to the junk, and the shore party did not return.
5. The BLUEBIRD departed about 2 March headed for Saigon and was picked up by French patrol craft off the coast of Indochina. The BLUEBIRD is being offered for sale to the French.

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Comment. Details of Nellis' activities during the coup are not known. A reliable source stated that Nellis remained in hiding in the home of Prasit Lulithanon, one of the coup participants, until 8 March, when he secured passage by BOAC to Hong Kong en route to the United States.

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Nellis was a student at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. during 1947 and 1948. In November 1948, he went to Hong Kong in search of employment, where he became acquainted with Nai Sanguan Tularak through a mutual friend, Mr. Robert L. MacGowan, of the Chase National Bank, Hong Kong. Nellis was a United States Air Force bomber pilot in Italy and India during the war.

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[REDACTED] Comment. It has been reported that the BLUEBIRD is owned by an American, A. Van Arsdale, and has been engaged in Chinese coastal trade during the past year. The crew of the BLUEBIRD included no other Americans.

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